

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ELECTRONIC EVIDENCE (VISUAL) PRESENTER (Elmo)

The United States District Court for the Central District of California has evidence presenters available for attorneys to use while in trial. This technology is a video capture system that can be used to project the images of exhibits (documents, photographs, negatives, objects, x-rays, fingerprints, transparencies, etc.) to one or more monitors permitting the judge, attorneys, witnesses and jury to view the images at the same time. It also allows the operator to zoom in and highlight the most critical areas of the exhibit in detail. Some of the other features, which are not available in all courthouses, include an electronic pen (pointmaker), allowing the operator and/or witness to make different colored electronic pencil marks on the projected image and photocopy such an image; a touch screen for the monitor located by the witness stand, allowing the witness to "write" in different colors on the projected image on the screen by using his or her finger as a writing instrument (the second pointmaker); a swivel camera thereby eliminating the need to adjust the object on the visual presenter; a printer to print whatever appears on the screen; a slide projector; and a monitor attached to the visual presenter, allowing the operator to view the presented image at close-range and the ability of counsel to present evidence via a laptop computer. Please be aware that the Elmo does not have the capability to handle audio tapes.

General Information Concerning the Equipment

A complete evidence presenter unit consists of the following equipment:

- * Two 36" monitors, each transported on its own cart (the monitors remain on the cart; one monitor is for each end of the jury box); the Santa Ana Courthouse has an additional monitor for the gallery which is available only with prior permission from the judge.
- * Four 13" monitors (one monitor for each counsel table, one monitor for the judge and one monitor for the witness box); the Santa Ana Courthouse has an additional monitor available for the courtroom deputy.
- * One Visual Presenter and VCR (the presenter and the VCR remain on the cart; the cart is placed on the side of the lectern closest to the jury with the Elmo side positioned closest to the counsel table); the Santa Ana Courthouse system has two pointmakers, one connected to the visual presenter by the lectern and the other built-in to the witness monitor.
- * Slide Film to Video Converter (TRV-35H) which allows attorneys to display slides on the monitors, and is available in the Santa Ana Courthouse only. Attorneys need to have their slides presentation ready in a standard Kodak Carousel (or equivalent) slide tray.
- * Video printer which allows images on the screen to be printed; the printer is activated by the courtroom deputy, and is available in the Santa Ana Courthouse only.
- * Cut-off box (for the judge's bench; it is connected to the two 36" monitors).
- * The Santa Ana Courthouse system also allows attorneys to use a laptop computer for presentation of evidence using PowerPoint or other presentation software. (Attorneys

shall provide their own technical assistance in preparing the laptop evidence presentation. The court is not responsible for troubleshooting comparability problems.)

For your convenience, the Elmo will be set up and removed in the courtroom by the procurement department of the district court. Due to the sensitivity of the equipment, it is advised that none of the equipment is to be moved or unplugged once it is set up; please contact the appropriate reservationist for assistance.

Due to the sophisticated internal wiring for the Elmo equipment in the Santa Ana Courthouse, attorneys are advised not to bring in their own visual presenter equipment but to use the equipment made available by the Court.

The two pointmakers are extremely sensitive and should be used with care

The Elmo operator is the only individual who controls the technical aspects of what appears on all of the monitors (i.e., clarity of text, size of picture). However, the cut-off box allows the judge to control what evidence on the Elmo the jury will be allowed to view. The witnesses, jury and attorneys only have control over the sound and picture clarity of their own monitor. It is advisable to confer with the judge as to what documents will be shown on the equipment prior to their display.

In the event the equipment malfunctions, do not attempt to troubleshoot the problem, but contact your reservationist as soon as possible.

Be sure to test any documents, objects or videos on the Elmo for audio/visual clarity prior to any court hearing.